

# The Insider

## It's A Soldier's Life...

**I**n 1796, the first American troops arrived in Michigan to raise the Stars and Stripes over Fort Lernoult at Detroit. Ever since, men and women from every branch of military service have worked, trained and recruited here in the Great Lakes State.

It goes without saying that daily life has changed in the ensuing two centuries—life in the military is no exception. The new special exhibit *A Soldier's Life* considers these changes in daily life at Michigan military posts, and the things that amazingly have stayed the same—like the KP duty shown here.

Brought together from the Michigan Historical Museum's collection of military artifacts, *A Soldier's Life* opens Sunday, November 6, 2005, in the first-floor special exhibits gallery at the Michigan Historical Museum in downtown Lansing.

Visitors will experience the daily lives of Michigan troops in every branch of the service living at Michigan forts and posts. Follow changes in missions, daily jobs, food, shelter, uniforms, recreation, housing and technology during the past two centuries. Play a drum, use a washboard and carry gear just like our service men and women did.

Opening day activities at the exhibit include the 2005 Veterans Tribute and a display of modern-day military equipment on the grounds of the Michigan Library and Historical Center.

*A Soldier's Life* is sponsored, in part, by the Friends of Michigan History, the Michigan Historical Center Foundation and the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC).



*Soldiers on KP duty at Camp Custer, circa 1917.*

## 2005 Veterans Tribute

We are proud to welcome Gus Ganakas of East Lansing as the honored guest speaker at the 2005 Veterans Tribute.

Ganakas, former Michigan State University men's basketball coach, was an 18-year-old marine private in the closing months of World War II. "In those years," Ganakas says, "people went into service as soon as they could. It was the patriotic thing to do and I wanted to be part of it."

The New York native joined the marines. As part of the First Marine Division's artillery support, Ganakas took part in the American invasion of Okinawa. "We wanted to be part of the effort to defeat the Japanese. We got what we asked for," Ganakas says.

You can hear more about Ganakas's WWII service at the 2005 Veterans Tribute, November 6, at the Michigan

Historical Museum in downtown Lansing. The museum is located inside the Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

The 2005 Veterans Tribute is sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History and the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

**Sunday,  
November 6  
2 P.M.**

## New state archivist has familiar face

**S**hortly after Mark Harvey graduated from Calvin College, he joined the State Archives of Michigan (SAM) at the Michigan Historical Center in downtown Lansing. Now, with more than a decade of professional experience behind him, most recently as SAM's reference archivist, Harvey has been selected to head the state archives.

Harvey oversees archives holdings that include more than 80 million state and local government records and private papers, 300,000 photographs and 500,000 maps. And there's more coming all the time—SAM's staff of eight takes in 2,500 cubic feet of records every year. In addition to processing new acquisitions, the staff annually fulfills some 12,500 patron requests.

"We are challenged, like many in state government, to do more with less," Harvey says.

The new state archivist, who holds master's degrees in history and information science from Wayne State University, recalls the moment when the value of original documents and their connection to everyday life hit home for him.

"While working for the Grand Rapids Public Museum as an



*Mark Harvey*

intern, I was responsible for answering letters from people inquiring about their furniture," he says. "My grandfather worked for Stickley Brothers Furniture Company in Grand Rapids and one day, while doing research on a Stickley piece, I opened a company catalog to find his name inscribed on the inside cover—it was his desk copy!"

"That connection to my own family history, the history of a piece of furniture someone currently owned and the history of the region was too much to resist," Harvey says.

These are the kinds of connections that the Okemos native is trying to help the public find at the state archives. Staff is just wrapping up a month-long presentation of workshops on how to research family and local history. Harvey also wants to add education programs for K-12 and college groups.

"My hope is to make the archives a more fun, less austere, place where users can feel free to explore our resources," he says.

Mark Harvey lives in Lansing with his wife Ann and their two-year-old daughter. Who handles the household records? "I'm afraid I'm an archivist at home as well...but my photos are a mess," he admits with a smile.

## From the Friends President

In partnership with the Michigan Historical Museum System, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division and the Michigan Historical Center Foundation, we recently began a Friends of Michigan History affiliate chapter membership program. Affiliate chapters provide an opportunity for visitors and local residents to directly support Michigan Historical Museum System facilities across the state or located in their own backyards.

During the summer, chapters were initiated at Fayette Historic Townsite in the Upper Peninsula and at Walker Tavern Historic Complex near Brooklyn.

Friends chapter membership revenue will be used to fund projects for which financial support has been requested by the museum site administrator, in consultation with the appropriate DNR officials where applicable, and in keeping with the bylaws of the Friends of Michigan History. Over time, we anticipate that membership support will help fund special programs and historic preservation projects, such as the building stabilization efforts at Fayette.

Chapter members will be entitled to all of the benefits of a regular Friends membership (see page 3). Each chapter, as it is organized, will have a local board. Memberships will be processed in partnership with the Michigan Historical



*The Friends of Fayette invited visitors to join the affiliate of the Friends of Michigan History. Shown here are Friends of Fayette secretary/treasurer Donna Winters and president John Bagley.*

Center Foundation.

Since the inception of our organization, the goal has always been to have statewide impact on the State of Michigan's history product. With the initiation of the chapter program, the Friends of Michigan History have taken a giant step toward reaching that goal.

In closing, it is a distinct pleasure for me to serve you as president for another year. I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with the most dedicated board members that our organization has ever had. As an organization, we are "doers," contributing immensely to the work of the Michigan Historical Museum System and our state history programs—especially in these difficult economic times. Each of you should be very proud of our collective accomplishments! Thank you for your continued support.

—Francis R. "Bus" Spaniola

### Artifact spotlight:

## Silent witness to tragedy

The crystal is gone and the hands are broken and bent, but this watch is an almost 80-year survivor of Michigan's worst mine disaster.

Mine captain William Francis Tippet, 43, wore this watch during his shift at the Barnes-Hecker Mine on November 3, 1926. That morning, the iron mine near Ishpeming caved in. Tippet and several others had almost reached the safety of a connecting mine, when a rush of mud, rocks and water overtook them. Throughout the Barnes-Hecker Mine, 51 men lost their lives.

Before the mine was sealed forever, ten bodies were recovered. According to the Tippet family, the captain's watch was key to his identification.

In spring 2005, William Tippet's granddaughter, Marsha Tippet, donated the family heirloom to the Michigan Historical Museum System's Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee. The generous donation couldn't have come at a better time. The Michigan Iron Industry Museum is expanding its exhibits and facilities to tell more stories of the state's rich iron heritage.



*William Tippet's watch rests on a photo of the mine captain who lost his life in Michigan's worst mine disaster.*

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**Next Friends  
meeting:  
Wednesday,  
November 16, 2005**

## Welcome to Our New Friends

Catherine Anton  
Jeffrey Armstrong  
Donald Aspinall Jr.  
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Wayne Baker  
Martin Beckwith  
Diane Behr  
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Becky Cartwright

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Andrea Haggadone  
Harold Haight  
Robert Harris  
Saliha Haznedarevic  
Steven Hopkins  
Linda Hospital  
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Ryan Hunsuweit

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Michael McGuirk  
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Become a partner with the Michigan Historical Center in protecting, preserving and interpreting Michigan's rich heritage.

#### Your membership benefits include:

- A one-year subscription to *Michigan History* magazine
- A 10% discount at the Michigan Historical Museum stores
- Discounts on museum classes and workshops
- Nationwide museum discounts through "Time Travelers"
- *The Insider* quarterly newsletter
- Qualified to join State Employee Credit Union (SECU)
- Special invitations to exhibit openings
- Membership card
- Tax benefits when you itemize your IRS tax return

#### For more information:

(517) 373-2565.

[www.michigan.gov/friendsofmichiganhistory](http://www.michigan.gov/friendsofmichiganhistory)

**Yes!** Please reserve the Friends of Michigan History membership indicated below

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**Please detach and mail to:** Friends of Michigan History, P.O. Box 17035, Lansing, MI 48901



**Friends of Michigan History**  
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## All-Star Celebrity Gala

**November 5, 2005**  
**7 to 11 P.M.**

**H**ave you ever wanted to rub elbows with famous Michigani-ans? Well, here's your chance—the Odyssey 2005 All-Star Celebrity Gala.

With a luxurious red carpet beneath your feet, you and your friends will stroll down the Walk of Fame and enter a world of glitz, glamour and fun! Here are just some of the highlights:

- ★ Meet famous celebrity impersonators (and maybe a few live, in-person celebrities, too)
- ★ Dance with the "stars" to your favorite live tunes performed by Global Village
- ★ Savor an array of sumptuous hors d'oeuvres
- ★ Bid on fabulous silent auction items, including a two-night stay at the majestic Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island
- ★ See the presentation of the Odyssey 2005 awards,

honoring exceptional Michigan history educators  
**A selection of silent auction items includes:**



*Robin Williams, Lily Tomlin, Madonna and Stevie Wonder all have Michigan roots. Will you spot one of them (or a look-alike) at the All-Star Celebrity Gala? Caricature by Dennis Preston.*

- ★ Four Detroit Pistons tickets (courtesy Metro Detroit Convention & Visitors Bureau)
- ★ Weekend at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island (courtesy Grand Hotel)
- ★ One-night golf or ski package for two (courtesy Boyne USA Resorts)
- ★ Split-rail signature quilt (courtesy Michigan Historical Museum staff and volunteers)

Make your reservations today! Cost for this spectacular evening is only \$100 per person. Visit [www.michigan.gov/odyssey](http://www.michigan.gov/odyssey) or contact Carol Payne by telephone at (517) 373-2565 or by e-mail at [paynec@michigan.gov](mailto:paynec@michigan.gov).